

## U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

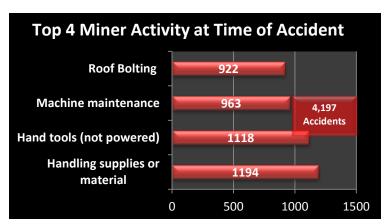


## SAFETY ALERT

## **Hand Injury Accidents**

From January 1, 2010 through August 31, 2016, there have been 5,678 hand injuries at our Nation's coal mines. Of these injuries, 1,863 have resulted on an average of 39 lost time days. The top 4 activities being performed by miners at the time of the accident were handling supplies or material; non-powered hand tools; machine maintenance; and roof bolting. These four categories account for 4,197 or approximately 74% of the accidents, please see chart below.





## **BEST PRACTICES**

- Keep hands away from pinch points, rotating or moving machine parts
- Never operate machinery or equipment without guarding or when emergency shut-off switches (panic bar) are not operable
- Wear metacarpal gloves or proper fitting gloves that give you the needed dexterity for the job task. The glove should fit snugly to reduce or prevent minor cuts, bruising or pinching. Loose fitting gloves can get caught in machinery.
- Mechanically secure the material you are working on with clamps or vices, not your hands!
- Keep work areas clear of tripping hazards when handling supplies or material, maintain control of material when lifting
- Use the correct tool for the job
- When using box cutters, knife or other sharp tools, cut away from your body
- Remove jewelry such as rings, bracelets, before handling material or using hand tools
- Train miners to recognize hazards of each activity and how to use equipment and tools safely